

I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 9 without prejudice. Kindly amend claims 1-3, 7 and 8, and add new claims 11 and 12 as follows.

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, or versions, of claims in the above-captioned application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A community providing server providing a ~~first~~-virtual community for a first user who has a user terminal connected to the server via a network, the server comprising:

a user management information database for storing information concerning registered users who are registered with the ~~first~~-virtual community, wherein the stored information includes addresses of the registered users in the ~~first~~-virtual community;

a contents database for storing contents data constituting the ~~first~~-virtual community; and

a control means for issuing, for the purpose of mounting a virtual tag community on a website ~~of~~ set up by a registered second user, a community tag that is to be inserted in HTML data constituting the website, wherein the virtual tag community mounted on the website is only a portion of the ~~first~~-virtual community corresponding to the address of the second registered ~~a third user who owns the website mounting the virtual tag community.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The community providing server as defined in Claim 1,
wherein,

the user management information database stores information concerning an avatar
that is a character acting for each user in the virtual tag community, and

the control means performs control to show the avatar acting for a fourth user in the
virtual tag community, who is accessing the website mounting the virtual tag community of
the ~~first~~ virtual community.

3. (Currently Amended) The community providing server as defined in Claim 2,
wherein, when a fifth user who has not logged into the ~~first~~ virtual community accesses the
website mounting the virtual tag community, the control means performs control to show a
specific character that indicates the fifth user is not in a logged-in state in the virtual tag
community.

4. (Previously Presented) The community providing server as defined in Claim 1,
wherein,

the user management information database stores an address of the website of the
third user owning the website mounting the virtual tag community among the registered
users, and

the control means provides information of the address of the website for a fourth user
via the virtual tag community.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A virtual community system providing a first-virtual community for a first user, the system comprising:

(a) a virtual community providing server;

(b) a user terminal; and

(c) a user website server, wherein the virtual community providing server, the user terminal, and the user website server are connected to each other via a network, wherein the community providing server comprises

i. a user management information database for storing information concerning registered users who are registered with the virtual community, wherein the stored information includes addresses of the registered users in the first-virtual community;

ii. a contents database for storing contents data constituting the first-virtual community; and

iii. a control means for issuing, for the purpose of mounting a virtual tag community on a website set up by a registered second user, a community tag that is to be inserted in HTML data constituting the website, wherein the virtual tag community mounted on the website is only a portion of the first-virtual community corresponding to the address of the second registered ~~a third user who owns the website mounting the virtual tag community~~, and wherein

_____ the user website server comprises

i. storage for saving HTML data into which the community tag is inserted.

8. (Currently Amended) A virtual community providing method for providing a ~~first~~ virtual community for a first user who has a user terminal connected to a community providing server via a network, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) issuing a community tag, by the community providing server, for a second user who accesses the community providing server and registers with the virtual community in order to mount a virtual tag community on a website ~~set up by~~ of a registered third user, wherein the virtual tag community mounted on the website is only a portion of the ~~first~~ virtual community corresponding to the address of a third registered ~~fourth~~ user ~~who owns the website mounting the virtual tag community~~; and

(b) sending data of contents of the ~~first~~ virtual community, by the community providing server, to the user terminal that accesses the website of the registered third user and that also accesses the community providing server after analyzing the virtual community tag.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The community providing server as defined in Claim 1, wherein,

the user management information database stores information concerning an avatar that is a character acting for each user in the virtual tag community, and

the control means performs control to show the avatar acting for a user in the virtual tag community who is accessing the website mounting the virtual tag community.

11. (NEW) A virtual community system according to claim 7, wherein the user terminal is a first user terminal used by the first user to access the virtual tag community mounted on the website used by the registered second user, and the virtual community system further comprises at least one second user terminal connected to the virtual community providing server, the first user terminal and the user website server via the network, wherein the registered second user uses the second user terminal to access the virtual tag community mounted on the website used by the registered second user.

12. (NEW) A virtual community system according to claim 11, wherein the first user accesses the virtual tag community mounted on the website used by the registered second user without having to access another website to use content of the virtual community.